Federal Communications Commission 445 12<sup>th</sup> St., S.W. Washington, D.C. 20554

News Media Information 202 / 418-0500 Internet: http://www.fcc.gov TTY: 1-888-835-5322

DA 17-839

Released: September 2, 2017

PUBLIC SAFETY & HOMELAND SECURITY BUREAU ANNOUNCES THAT THE DISASTER INFORMATION REPORTING SYSTEM IS DEACTIVATED IN LOUISIANA AND ALL COUNTIES IN TEXAS EXCEPT ARANSAS, CALHOUN, CHAMBERS, HARDIN, HARRIS, JEFFERSON, MATAGORDA, NUECES, ORANGE, REFUGIO, SAN PATRICIO, VICTORIA, AND WHARTON

The Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau today has deactivated the Disaster Information Reporting System (DIRS)<sup>1</sup> for Hurricane Harvey for all counties in Louisiana and Texas, except the Texas counties of Aransas, Calhoun, Chambers, Hardin, Harris, Jefferson, Matagorda, Nueces, Orange, Refugio, San Patricio, Victoria, and Wharton. The FCC, in coordination with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) National Coordinating Center (NCC) and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), activated the DIRS on August 25, 2017 to receive information on the status of communications equipment in 55 counties in Louisiana and Texas. The disaster area was later extended on August 31, 2017 to nine additional counties in Texas.

For those counties where DIRS remains activated, the Commission requests that communications providers expeditiously submit and update information through DIRS regarding, *inter alia*, the status of their communications equipment, restoration efforts, power (*i.e.*, whether they are using commercial power, generator or battery), and access to fuel, if they provide service to any areas listed below. Communications providers can accomplish this by accessing DIRS at <a href="https://www.fcc.gov/nors/disaster/">https://www.fcc.gov/nors/disaster/</a> or PSHSB webpage (<a href="www.fcc.gov/pshs">www.fcc.gov/pshs</a>). Reports are requested at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, September 3 and every day after that by 10:00 a.m. until DIRS is deactivated. Note that NORS reporting obligations are suspended when companies report in DIRS.

Communications providers that serve an area listed below and that have already provided contact information in DIRS have been sent an e-mail requesting that they provide the above-referenced status information through DIRS. We encourage all communications providers that have not already logged onto DIRS to input their contact information, to do so as soon as possible.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> DIRS is a voluntary, web-based system that communications providers, including wireless, wireline, broadcast, cable and Voice over Internet Protocol providers, can use to report communications infrastructure status and situational awareness information during times of crisis.

The counties where DIRS remains active are:

**Texas:** Aransas, Calhoun, Chambers, Hardin, Harris, Jefferson, Matagorda, Nueces, Orange, Refugio, San Patricio, Victoria, and Wharton

Note that if providers do not provide service in these counties, they do not need to report.

For further information, please contact John Healy of the PSHSB's Cybersecurity and Communications Reliability Division at (215) 847-8094 or <a href="mailto:John.Healy@fcc.gov">John.Healy@fcc.gov</a>.

- FCC -